

a server for retrieving a cookie previously dropped by the server on the client, the cookie containing the user color characterization data.

31. The system of claim 29, further comprising:

a database connected to the computer network for providing the user color characterization data to the server in accordance with the user identification.

32. The system of claim 29, wherein the server includes the database.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,091,518 to Anabuki. In particular, the Examiner understood Anabuki to disclose determining available user characterization data in response to a user request for images and specifically quoted the language "color image information" and "object information" found in the Abstract, Figs. 1, 4, 9, 15, 16 and 17, and column 2, line 10 through column 6, line 55. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's understanding of this reference.

Anabuki discloses a system "for storing profile information for a color correction made to color image information or color image information prepared from object information" (col. 2 ll. 25-28), "color correction means using the profile information for making a color correction to the color image information or color image information prepared from object information, and reproduction means for reproducing the color image information to which a color correction has been made by the color

correction means." (col. 2 ll. 43-50). The profile information of Anabuki describes the color information of the image (the object), and as disclosed has no relation to the display characteristics of the any of the user displays upon which the image may eventually be displayed. Anabuki does not disclose or mention determining user display characteristics and subsequently selecting an image appropriate to the user display characteristics. No mention is made anywhere in the patent of obtaining user display characteristics, of including such characteristics into the profile information, or of performing color correction based upon such characteristics. Anabuki discloses a system wherein a user requests an image, receives the image, and then requests profile information for the image (which "may be information defining a color space used to describe the *color image information* or *color image information prepared from the object information.*" col. 2, ll. 62-65, emphasis added) to perform color correction on the image. Applicants thus submit that Anabuki does not in fact anticipate claim 1 and urge the Examiner to withdraw the rejection and allow independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-7.

Dependent claims 2 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of Anabuki. As discussed above, independent claim 1 is patentable over Anabuki and thus dependent claims 2 and 3 are also patentable over Anabuki.

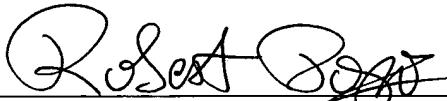
Applicants have amended claims 1-7 solely to correct minor grammatical errors and potential ambiguities. None of the amendments to the claims have been made for purposes related to the patentability of the claims, which has been addressed in the arguments presented above.

Applicants further submit new claims 8-32 to more completely claim their invention. Claims 8-14 are dependent

from independent claim 1, and claims 15-32 are apparatus claims corresponding to method claims 1-14.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urge the Examiner to consider the claims, allow the claims, and pass this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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1. A method for providing images to a user, comprising:
  - in response to a user request for one or more images, determining available user color characterization data; and causing one or more images having color characteristics appropriate to determined user color characterization data to be provided to the user.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising after determining that user color characterization data is available: displaying to the user a first icon.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising after determining that user color characterization data is not available: displaying to the user a second icon.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein causing the one or more images to be provided to the user comprises: color correcting the one or more images on-the-fly.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein color correcting the images comprises:
  - selecting a group of one or more images from one or more groups of pre-transformed images.
6. The method of claim 4 or claim 5, wherein color correcting the one or more images comprises:
  - color correcting the one or more images in accordance with the characterization data of the user.
7. The method of claim 4 or claim 5, wherein color correcting the one or more images comprises:
  - color correcting the one or more images in accordance with a predetermined set of color characterization parameters.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the user is a person or the user is a client computer connected to a computer network including an Internet, an intranet, or a local area network.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein:  
the user is a client computer connected to a computer network; and the method further comprises  
receiving the user request at a server computer connected to the computer network.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein determining user characterization data comprises:  
providing information from the client to the server to determine user color characterization data.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the information provided from the client to the server is a cookie previously dropped by the server on the client.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the cookie contains information to enable the server to identify the user.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the cookie contains the user color characterization data.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising:  
retrieving from a database the user color characterization data in accordance with the user identification.

15. A system for providing images to a user, comprising:

a data provider for determining available user color characterization data in response to a user request for one or more images; and

an image provider for causing one or more images having color characteristics appropriate to determined user color characterization data to be provided to the user.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the image provider comprises:

an image provider for displaying a first icon to the user if user color characterization data is available.

17. The system of claim 15, wherein the image provider comprises:

an image provider for displaying a second icon to the user if user color characterization data is not available.

18. The system of claim 15, wherein the image provider comprises:

an image provider for color correcting the one or more images on-the-fly.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the image provider comprises:

an image provider for color correcting the one or more images in accordance with the color characterization data of the user.

20. The system of claim 15, wherein the image provider comprises:

an image provider for selecting a group of one or more images from one or more groups of pre-transformed images.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the image provider comprises:

an image provider for selecting the one or more images in accordance with the color characterization data of the user.

22. The system of claim 15, wherein the image provider comprises:

an image provider for color correcting the one or more images in accordance with a predetermined set of color characterization parameters.

23. The system of claim 20, wherein the image provider comprises:

an image provider for selecting the one or more images in accordance with a predetermined set of color characterization parameters.

24. The system of claim 15, wherein the user is a person or the user is a client computer connected to a computer network including an Internet, an intranet, or a local area network.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein:

the user is a client computer connected to a computer network; and

the image provider comprises a server computer connected to the computer network.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the server includes the data provider.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein the server comprises:

a server for receiving information from the client to determine user characterization data.

28. The system of claim 26, wherein the server comprises:  
a server for retrieving a cookie previously dropped by the server on the client.
29. The system of claim 28, wherein the server comprises:  
a server for retrieving a cookie previously dropped by the server on the client, the cookie containing information to enable the server to identify the user.
30. The method of claim 28; wherein the server comprises:  
a server for retrieving a cookie previously dropped by the server on the client, the cookie containing the user color characterization data.
31. The system of claim 29, further comprising:  
a database connected to the computer network for providing the user color characterization data to the server in accordance with the user identification.
32. The system of claim 29, wherein the server includes the database.